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**General Law Committee Testimony**  
**By Stan Sorkin, President**  
**Connecticut Food Association**  
**March 10, 2014**

**Testimony in Support of SB No.380: An Act Concerning Economic Development Grants Program to Provide Small Business Owners Who Produce Commercial Food access to Commercial Kitchens**

Good afternoon, Chairman Doyle, Chairman Baram, and Members of the General Law Committee. My name is Stan Sorkin, President of the Connecticut Food Association.

The Connecticut Specialty Food Association (CSFA) is part of the Connecticut Food Association (CFA), whose wide-ranging membership includes major chains as well as independent grocers, manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers, brokers, and specialty food producers in Connecticut.

The Connecticut Specialty Food Association is an organization of 70 small to mid-sized entrepreneurs sharing in a vision to provide the consumer with high quality specialty foods. We seek to support and promote our members' products by providing information, enhancing visibility, and increasing awareness of Connecticut-made products to all segments of the marketplace. By promoting Connecticut based businesses, we seek to promote our state by providing quality products and job creation within our state.

Simply put, we are strongly in favor of SB No. 380 which would provide low cost access to capital that would aid our members in financing the expansion of their business' production capabilities when they outgrow in-house facilities. Commercial kitchens are the next step in the production process and this bill incentivizes our members to take that next step. It promotes small business growth, jobs, and the CT economy. It is sound economic stimulus policy.

I urge you to vote YES on SB No. 380